The National Park Service
and
National Park System
National Park Service

- Yellowstone, established in 1872, is the first National Park in the world
- National Parks are called America’s best idea
- The National Park Service was created in 1916
The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.
While the National Park Service is perhaps best known for Park Rangers...
...and caring for western wilderness parks where millions of Americans and international visitors head for memorable family vacations...

Yellowstone National Park, WY, MT, ID
...the National Park Service cares for 384 National Parks in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico & the Virgin Islands...
Places where you can walk the battlefield that changed the tide of the Civil War...
…or learn about the man who made civil rights a reality.
Places that help us remember the pain…

Andersonville National Historic Site, GA
National Park Service

...the people...

Lincoln Memorial, DC
...and the places that forged the American character.
Places that help us learn from ancient civilizations...

Mesa Verde National Park, CO
…and get away from civilization altogether.
Places with faces…

Channel Islands National Park, CA

Mount Rushmore National Memorial, SD

Yellowstone National Park, WY, MT, ID
…and wide open spaces.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN & NC
Places with inspiring stories...

Statue of Liberty / Ellis Island National Monument, NY
...and places that give us stories to tell.

Virgin Islands National Park, VI
Places in big cities...

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, MO
…and small towns.

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, NH
The National Park System

- 384 National Parks that preserve the authentic places where real things happened
- Where visitors – and virtual visitors – can create meaningful experiences
- Where the National Park Service guarantees these places and opportunities are here today and in the future
National Park Service

• National Parks Pass
  – $50 annual pass for all National Parks with entrance fees
  – More than 80% of proceeds go toward important projects in National Parks
The numbers:

- $2.4 billion annual budget
- 286 million annual visits to National Parks…
  - More than go to Disney attractions, Universal Studios and National Football League games – combined
- 136 million annual visits to www.nps.gov
- 84 million acres
- Almost 200,000 students & 20,000 teachers in Parks as Classroom Programs in 2000
- Habitat for 168 threatened or endangered species
- More than 80 million museum objects
- 1.5 million archeological sites
- 26,000 historical structures
National Park Service

• Who are the people of the National Park Service?
  – 23,000 professionals
    • architects, archeologists and rangers
    • maintenance workers and wildlife biologists
    • law enforcement officers and educators
• **Working with partners**
  – Thousands of organizations work with the National Park Service every day to enhance service to the public
  – They include...
Volunteers in Parks (VIPs)
- 145,000 annual VIPs
- 4.4 million hours donated
- valued at more than $66 million
National Park Service

• Cooperating Associations
  – Enhance education and National Park experience
  – 65 associations
  – $17 million in annual contributions
Friends Groups
- Non-profit partners
- More than 150 support specific parks
- $15 million in support
• National Park Foundation
  – Official non-profit partner
  – $34 million in grants over last 5 years
  – Partner in National Parks Pass

The National Park Foundation honors, enriches, and expands the legacy of private philanthropy that helped create, and continues to sustain, America's National Parks.
Working Close to Home

- Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program
  - helps locally-led efforts to plan greenways, conserve rivers and watersheds and create trails
  - more than 900 communities assisted since 1988
National Park Service

• Land & Water Conservation Fund
  – 50% matching grants for local parks and recreation facilities
  – $3.2 billion for more than 37,000 projects since 1965

• Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR)
  – $259 million in park rehab funds to 400 jurisdictions in 42 states since 1978

• Federal Lands to Parks
  – help states and localities acquire surplus federal land for parks at no cost
  – 1,200 properties recycled in 50 states and three territories since 1949
National Trails System

- 17 historic and scenic trails administered or jointly administered by the National Park Service
- 38,000 miles of trails in 46 states
• National Heritage Areas
  – works with partners in nine National Heritage Areas to conserve cultural and natural resources
• National Register of Historic Places
  
  – More than 1 million properties listed
• Historic Preservation Tax Incentives

  – tax credit program leverages more than $2 billion annually in private investment to bring back inner cities and towns

New Amsterdam Theater, NY
• Tribal Grants
  – Assists more than 100 Indian tribes in protecting their unique & endangered cultures
Working Far From Home

– Sharing America’s best idea with other nations

• South Africa
• Canada
• China
• Russia
• Mexico
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